

Citizen's Guide to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Information (NUREG-BR0010, Revision 3)

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Introduction

Establishment of The NRC

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) primary mission is to help ensure that public health and safety are protected in the many different peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Congress established the NRC as an independent agency in January 1975 by passing the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974. The NRC was given a mandate to take over from the former Atomic Energy Commission the responsibility for regulating various commercial, industrial, academic, and medical uses of nuclear energy. For example--

* NRC regulates over 100 commercial nuclear power plants that provide more than 20 percent of the Nation's electricity.

* NRC regulates such things as nuclear materials used in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, in sterilizing instruments, in smoke detectors, and in gauges used to detect explosives in luggage at airports, in addition to the transport, storage, and disposal of these materials.

* Finally, NRC regulates fuel cycle and nuclear waste facilities.

Congress has passed other acts affecting NRC's regulation of peaceful uses of nuclear energy; these

acts are available in two volumes titled “Nuclear Regulatory Legislation” (NUREG-0980) [see “Agency Information,” Item 4, in this brochure] from the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO).¹ [See Item 1 of “Obtaining Agency Information” in this brochure for ways to contact GPO and to contact each subsequent organization that has an endnote number associated with the entry.]

The NRC places a high priority on keeping the public fully informed of its activities. The information in this guide will allow you to explore in more detail some of the work we do and sources of information about it. Much NRC information is available at NRC’s World Wide Web (WWW) site <<http://www.nrc.gov>>.

Information About NRC Regulatory Programs

Nuclear Reactors

Approximately one-fifth (22 percent) of the Nation’s electricity is generated by 104 commercial nuclear reactors in 31 States. Of these States, 6 rely on nuclear power for more than 50 percent of their electricity and 13 rely on nuclear power for 25 to 50 percent of their electricity.

Nuclear Materials

The NRC and the Agreement States have issued approximately 21,000 licenses for medical, academic, and industrial uses of nuclear material. Approximately 6,000 licenses are administered by the NRC, and the remaining licenses are administered by the 30 States that participate in the NRC Agreement States Program.

Nuclear Waste

Low-level waste.

Similarly, the NRC and the Agreement States regulate low-level waste facilities. South Carolina and the State of Washington regulate a low-level waste disposal site in each of these States. The State of Utah and NRC regulate the disposal of different types of bulk low-level radioactive waste at a site in Utah.

High-level waste.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act and its amendments outline a detailed approach for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste. They give the Department of Energy (DOE) operational responsibility and give the NRC regulatory responsibility for the transportation, interim storage, and geologic disposal of the waste. As with low-level waste, the disposal of high-level radioactive waste requires a determination of acceptable health and environmental impacts over thousands of years. Current plans call for the ultimate disposal of the waste in solid form in a licensed deep geologic repository. The

amendments redirected DOE to investigate only one potential high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. DOE is currently working on a viability assessment for the Yucca Mountain site. Ultimately, any high-level waste repository will require an NRC license.

Fuel Cycle Facilities

The NRC licenses and inspects all commercial nuclear fuel facilities involved in the processing and fabrication of uranium ore into reactor fuel. Eight major facilities are licensed to operate in seven States, and two gaseous diffusion uranium enrichment facilities are licensed to operate in as many States.

Nuclear Research

The NRC conducts a wide range of research and technical studies related to nuclear reactors, nuclear materials, and nuclear waste. The studies include topics such as reactor materials, nuclear fuel, thermal-hydraulics, risk-safety analysis, health physics, and radionuclide transport in the environment. The information is used to develop independent analytical tools and technical expertise required in making timely regulatory decisions that are based on the best available knowledge and operating experience. The results of major research programs are presented at a major public meeting each fall and in various rulemaking and technical reports that are issued by the Commission.

Common Defense And Security And International Involvement

The NRC performs international activities in support of the agency's domestic mission and of broader U.S. national interests. Among these are licensing of imports and exports of nuclear facilities, equipment, material, and related commodities; developing legal instruments addressing issues such as nonproliferation, safety, spent fuel and waste management, and liability; maintaining arrangements with counterpart foreign national regulatory organizations for information exchange; taking a leadership role in activities of the International Nuclear Regulators Association, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Nuclear Energy Agency; and participating in more than 60 joint international safety research agreements. For more information about these activities, use WWW address <<http://www.nrc.gov/IP/index.html>>.

Enforcement

The Office of Enforcement (OE) issues semiannual progress reports, "Enforcement Actions: Significant Actions Resolved" (NUREG-0940), that include copies of significant Notices of Violation, civil penalty actions, and orders that have been issued to reactor licensees, materials licensees, and individuals involved in licensed activities.

From NRC's Home Page, access the About NRC icon and then Enforcement Program to obtain additional information. OE's Home Page at <<http://www.nrc.gov/OE/>> includes information such as

the agency's current Enforcement Policy ([NUREG-1600](#)), copies of significant enforcement actions issued since March 1996, a schedule of upcoming predecisional enforcement conferences, and enforcement guidance, such as the "NRC Enforcement Manual" ([NUREG/BR-0195](#)).

Office of The Inspector General

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for the NRC was established on April 15, 1989. The Inspector General reports to and serves under the general supervision of the NRC Chairman but operates with personnel and contracting and budget authority independent of that of the NRC. This office is statutorily mandated to promote the economy and efficiency of NRC's programs and operations and to prevent and detect fraud and abuse should it occur in these programs and operations. To fulfill its mandate, the OIG conducts, and supervises the conduct of, audits and investigations and reviews and comments on existing and proposed regulations and legislation. From NRC's Home Page, access the Reference Library icon and then (1) Inspector General Audit Reports to see copies of OIG audits or (2) NRC (NUREG) report number to see OIG semiannual reports to Congress. Additionally, OIG operates a confidential, toll-free hotline (1-800-233-3497) to which individuals may report incidents of possible fraud, waste, and abuse.

Development of NRC Regulations

When Congress enacts legislation to create a Federal agency, it provides general authority for the agency to perform its mission. One way the NRC more specifically accomplishes this mission is by issuing regulations. The process of developing regulations is called rulemaking. A regulation is sometimes referred to as a rule. The NRC's regulations are found in Chapter I of Title 10, "Energy," of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).² Chapter I is divided into Parts 1 through 199. These regulations are binding on all persons and organizations who receive a license from NRC to use nuclear materials or operate nuclear facilities.

Most NRC rulemakings are initiated by NRC's technical staff, although a member of the public may petition the NRC to develop, change, or rescind any of its regulations [see "Petitions for Rulemaking" in this brochure]. Most rulemakings provide the public with at least one opportunity to comment on a proposed rule.

The Federal Register

After a proposed rule is developed, the Commission will decide whether to approve it for publication in the *Federal Register*³ for public comment. When it is published, the notice will include the name of an NRC employee who can reply to questions about the rule and the address to which you may send comments on the rule. The NRC may also hold public meetings and workshops to discuss the proposed rule and receive further comments. You may access all proposed rulemakings published in the Federal Register on the NRC's rulemaking Web site at <<http://ruleforum.llnl.gov>> This Web site permits any member of the public to upload comments on proposed rules (i.e., submit comments

electronically). These comments will be considered in the same way as written comments.

The **Federal Register** is the official publication used by all Federal agencies to inform the public of various actions that the Government is considering. It is published each Federal workday. The NRC publishes proposed and final rules, advance notices of proposed rulemakings, policy statements, memoranda of understanding, petitions for rulemaking, and a semiannual agenda of regulations ([NUREG-0936](#)) [see “Agency Information,” Item 4, in this brochure], general notices, and announcements informing the public of NRC actions.

Petitions About Regulations

You may petition the NRC to issue, amend, or rescind a regulation [see [10 CFR 2.802](#), ‘Petitions for Rulemaking’]. Before filing a petition, you are encouraged to contact the NRC’s Rules and Directives Branch in the Office of Administration⁴ about the process. The NRC is permitted to (1) describe the procedure and process for filing and responding to a petition for rulemaking, (2) clarify an existing NRC regulation and the basis for the regulation, and (3) assist you in clarifying a potential petition so that the Commission is able to understand the nature of the issues of concern to you.

National Codes and Standards

NRC regulations and regulatory guides [see “Agency Information,” Item 1, in this brochure] may incorporate or refer to national codes and standards developed by professional societies, such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. NRC has assembled a reference collection consisting of codes and standards in current use. The collection may be consulted by appointment at the NRC Library.⁵ Copying of most codes and standards is restricted because they are copyrighted.

NRC Audiences

The Public

The NRC recognizes the public’s interest in the safe regulation of nuclear activities and provides opportunities for citizens to make their opinions known, participate in regulatory proceedings, and ask questions about nuclear regulation. For types of information not specifically described in this “Citizen’s Guide,” members of the public may contact the Office of Public Affairs⁶ (OPA) staff at NRC Headquarters or the Public Affairs Officer at one of NRC’s four regional offices. The OPA staff is available to answer questions on NRC policies, programs, and activities.

The Congress

Members of the Commission and NRC senior staff reply to inquiries from and present information to various committees of the House and the Senate and Members of Congress interested in aspects of NRC’s responsibilities. NRC’s Office of Congressional Affairs⁷ routinely gives members of Congress

NRC publications that they request, responds to their inquiries, and apprises them of policy or regulatory matters in which they may be interested.

Federal, State, Tribal, And Local Organizations

While NRC's contacts with States are far-reaching and involve activities of many of the agency's offices, as well as the Commission itself, NRC's program of Cooperation with Federal, State, and local governments, interstate organizations, and Indian Tribes is administered primarily through the Office of State Programs (OSP).⁸ The goals of this office are to ensure that NRC maintains effective relations and communications with these organizations and to promote greater awareness and mutual understanding of the policies, activities, and concerns of all parties involved as they relate to radiological safety at NRC and at Agreement State licensed facilities.

A total of 30 States have formal agreements with the NRC by which those States have assumed regulatory responsibility over byproduct, source, and small quantities of special nuclear material. Additionally, five States have filed a notice of intent with NRC to become an Agreement State. The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, requires that NRC review Agreement State radiation control programs periodically to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety and to ensure that their programs are compatible with NRC's program.

The NRC provides technical assistance to both Agreement and non-Agreement States and provides opportunities for training of personnel at NRC-sponsored courses. NRC sponsors conferences and special workshops on specific areas when needed. NRC also disseminates information of interest to a variety of officials and organizations and engages in cooperative efforts with a number of regional and State organizations, including the Agreement States; the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.; the National Governors' Association; the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners; and the National Congress of American Indians.

The NRC's Web site for the OSP <<http://www.hsrn.gov/NRC/home.html>> contains documents related to NRC's Agreement State Programs and information about both the Agreement State and State Liaison Programs. It also contains directions for subscribing to OSP Announcements. The office's net server provides immediate distribution of Agreement State Program business process information.

NRC maintains communications with affected State, local, and tribal governments in order to provide timely and complete information on radioactive waste repository determinations or plans. In addition, NRC regulations (10 CFR Part 60, Subpart C, and 10 CFR Part 61, Subpart F) specify a variety of mechanisms by which affected parties may participate in NRC's high- and low-level waste disposal licensing activities.

Agency Information

Once Congress authorizes an agency's mission and its basic operating regulations are in place, other types of information evolve from its regulatory mission. For example, at NRC, we have (1) regulatory guides, (2) generic communications, (3) two categories of documents designated according to NRC's document classification system of which, Category 1 comprises licensee-related material designated by a certain "docket" number and Category 2 comprises other NRC information, which is not "docketed," designated by alphanumeric identification codes; (4) a variety of reports and brochures designated as NUREG-series publications, (5) press releases and speeches, (6) information about obtaining contracts, including procurement opportunities for Section 8(a), small, small disadvantaged, and women-owned businesses; and (7) information about obtaining forms.

Some of this information is available at NRC's Web site <<http://www.nrc.gov>> Access any of the major areas of NRC information shown in a circle of icons on NRC's home page or explore the "Contents" to find the information that interests you. Also on the Web site is NRC's Government Information Locator System (GILS) [see "Systems of Information" in this brochure].

1. Regulatory Guides

These guides are issued to describe acceptable methods of implementing NRC regulations, techniques used by the NRC staff in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and data needed by the staff in its review of applications for permits and licenses. An NRC licensee may commit to following a regulatory guide as a condition of its license. The guides are issued in 10 numbered divisions:

1-Power Reactors

2-Research and Test Reactors

3-Fuels and Materials Facilities

4-Environmental and Siting

5-Materials and Plant Protection

6-Products

7-Transportation

8-Occupational Health

9-Antitrust and Financial Review

10-General

The guides are issued at 2 stages--as drafts for public comment and then as active (final) guides.

Comments are solicited on draft guides for approximately 2 months following their issuance. All comments received on a draft regulatory guide, and information on the resolution of those comments, may be inspected and copied for a fee at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR).⁹ Recent draft guides are available on NRC's Web site, as well as the comments on these draft guides. From NRC's Home Page, access Reference Library and then Regulatory Guides for a list of all regulatory guides and certain active guides.

A single copy of each guide, whether draft or active, is sent to each affected NRC licensee. Requests for single copies of draft or final guides (which may be reproduced) or for placement on an automatic distribution list for single copies of future draft guides in specific divisions should be made in writing to the NRC¹⁰.

2. Generic Communications

The NRC issues generic communications, which include bulletins, generic letters, information notices, and administrative letters, to inform groups of licensees about specific problems, developments, or other matters of interest to the licensees. A generic letter may request a licensee to take action or to submit information.

The NRC distributes these generic communications to appropriate licensees and interested groups or organizations. Generic communications are available on NRC's Web site. From NRC's Home Page, access the Reference Library icon and then Generic Letters. You may consult them or copy them for a fee in the PDR and in most Local Public Document Rooms¹¹ (LPDRs). You may purchase a subscription for generic communications by contacting GPO.

3. NRC's Document Classification System

A comprehensive description of the two categories of information in this system is in "U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Public Document Room File Classification System" (NUREG/BR-0052) available from GPO [see "Agency Information," Item 4, in this brochure].

Category 1. Licensee-Related (Docketed) Documents.

Each organization engaged in a nuclear activity licensed and regulated by NRC is assigned a docket (case) number. This number is sometimes the same as that assigned the part of the regulations with which that type of licensee must comply. For example, Part 60 of the CFR is titled "Disposal of High-Level Radioactive Wastes in Geologic Repositories," and Docket 60 is identified with the same title. Documents exchanged between NRC and the license applicant or the licensee are organized by that number. The first two digits of the docket number identify the type of nuclear activity in which the organization is engaged. The docket numbers are assigned as follows:

27-Licensing for land disposal of low-level radioactive waste (Pre-Part 61 licensees)

30-Licensing of the possession or use of nuclear or byproduct material in medicine, industry (including low-level waste management at power reactors), agriculture, or research

40-Licensing of nuclear source material facilities

50-Licensing of nuclear reactors or fuel reprocessing plants

52-Licensing of standard design certification and combined licensing of nuclear power plants

60-Disposal of high-level radioactive wastes in geologic repositories

61-Licensing requirements for land disposal of radioactive wastes

70-Licensing of special nuclear material

71-Licensing of the packaging and transportation of radioactive material

72-Licensing requirements for spent fuel storage installations

Category 2. Other (Nondocketed) Documents.

The types of documents in this category, preceded by alphanumeric identification codes, are as follows.

10 CFR 9.7	-Commission meeting records
ACRS	-Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards documents
ADVCM	-NRC Advisory Committees
Commission	-NRC Commissioner correspondence
Contract	-NRC contracts and grants
FOIA	-Freedom of Information Act Requests and Appeals
Gen Tech Is	-General technical issues
I&E	-Inspection and enforcement issuances
Misc	-Public Document Room miscellaneous
NUREG-NRC	-issued formal reports and related correspondence
ORG	-Organizational files
PR	-Proposed rules
PRESS	-Press releases

PRM	-Petitions for rulemaking
PROJ	-Projects
Pt 21	-10 CFR Part 21 deficiency reports
QA 999	-Quality assurance inspections
REGGD	- Regulatory guides
RES	-Research and technical assistance reports
REVIEW GRP	-Research review groups
RM	-Rulemakings
SECY	-Staff position papers before the Commission
SPEECHES	
SSD	-Sealed source documents
STATE PROG	-State programs
TOPREP	-Vendor topical reports and correspondence
WASH-AEC	-issued formal reports and correspondence
WM	-Waste management documents
WMRES	-Waste management contract documents
XPORTLIC	-Export and import licenses

The PDR in Washington, D.C., maintains a comprehensive collection of NRC's publicly available documents, both docketed and nondocketed, in paper, microfiche, and, selectively, diskette. The materials are searchable via the PDR's computer system.

4. NUREG-Series Publications

In its NUREG series, the NRC publishes scientific, technical, and administrative information dealing with licensing and regulation of civilian nuclear facilities and materials. These publications present information supporting regulatory decisions, guidance for meeting NRC regulations, results of task force investigations of specific topics or incidents, results of research programs, resolution of generic safety issues, analyses of certain regulatory programs, proceedings of conferences and workshops, and administrative information of interest to the staff, the industry, and the public. The publications contain no legally binding requirements and only unclassified material.

4.1 Regulatory Proceedings.

These publications are related to regulatory proceedings and encompass Safety Evaluation Reports, Environmental Impact Statements, Safety Analysis Reports, and Standard Review Plans. They are free to parties to a given proceeding. Publications in this category related to proceedings that began before 1975 will not have a NUREG-series designator but are referenced by docket numbers assigned to the case involved in a proceeding.

Standard Review Plans. The NRC staff follows a plan for review of various licensee submittals. Each plan addresses-

- * the responsibilities of the NRC staff performing the review,
- * the matters that are reviewed,
- * the Commission's regulations and acceptance criteria necessary for the review,
- * how the review is accomplished,
- * the conclusions that are appropriate, and
- * the implementation requirements.

These plans are published for a variety of NRC regulatory areas.

Nuclear Power Reactors Plan. "Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Report for Nuclear Power Reactors" (NUREG-0800).

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Plans. "Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for a Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility" (NUREG-1200); "Environmental Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for a Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility" (NUREG-1300); and "Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants, LWR (Light-Water Reactor) Edition" (NUREG-0800).

Transportation and Interim Storage of Spent Fuel Plans. "Standard Review Plan for Dry Storage Systems" ([NUREG-1536](#)).

High-Level Radioactive Waste Plan. "License Application Review Plan for a Geologic Repository for Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste" (NUREG-1323). This review plan will be revised into the Yucca Mountain Review Plan beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 1999 and will incorporate acceptance criteria from the following published NRC Issue Resolution Status Reports: "Igneous Activity," "Structural Deformation and Seismicity," "Evolution of the Near Field Environment," "Repository Design and Thermal Effects," "Container Life and Source Term," "Thermal Effects on Flow," and "Total System Performance Assessment and Integration." These status reports are available from NRC's PDR.

Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Plan. “Standard Review Plan for the Review of Remedial Action of Inactive Mill Tailings Sites Under Title I of the Uranium Tailings Radiation Control Act” and a “Draft Standard Review Plan for In Situ Leach Uranium Extraction License Applications.”

Decommissioning Plans and Documents. “Standard Review Plan for the Review of Financial Assurance Mechanisms for Decommissioning Under 10 CFR Parts 30, 40, 70, and 72”; “Standard Review Plan: Evaluating Decommissioning Plans for Licensees Under 10 CFR Parts 30, 40, and 70”; and “NMSS Handbook for Decommissioning Fuel Cycle and Materials Licensees,” which is similar to a standard review plan. The staff is preparing a standard review plan for licensee submittals related to compliance with the Final Rule on Radiological Criteria for License Termination, which was issued in July 1997.

Guidance for Preparing License Applications. In addition to the review plans, certain publications give guidance for preparing a license application: “Standard Format and Content of a License Application for a Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility” (NUREG-1199) and “Licensing of Alternative Methods of Disposal of Low-Level Radioactive Waste” (NUREG-1241). Note that certain regulatory guides (RGs) provide similar information (e.g., RG 3.48 and RG 3.61).

4.2 Guides to Publications in The NUREG Series.

The “Title List of Documents Made Publicly Available” (NUREG-0540) is published monthly. It identifies publications and lists docketed and nondocketed material received and produced by the NRC related to its role as a regulatory agency for a particular month. The publication “Abstracts for Publications in the NUREG Series” ([NUREG-0304](#)), formerly titled the “Regulatory and Technical Reports (Abstract Index Journal),” is published semiannually and gives an abstract for each publication in the series.

4.3 General Reference Information.

These publications include annual compilations of NRC information mandated by such recent acts as the Government Performance and Results Act and other information about agency regulatory programs and organization such as the “Strategic Plan” ([NUREG-1614](#)), the “Annual Report” ([NUREG-1145](#)), the “Accountability Report” ([NUREG-1542](#)), the “NRC Information Digest” ([NUREG-1350](#)), the “NRC Regulator of Nuclear Safety” (NUREG/BR-0164), “NRC Organization Charts” (NUREG-0325), and the “NRC Telephone Directory” (NUREG/BR-0046).

4.4 Operational Information.

Operational information includes reports such as the “Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences” (NUREG-0090) and the “Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data (NUREG-1272, Vols. 1, 2, and 3).

4.5 Regulatory Decisions.

“Nuclear Regulatory Commission Issuances” (NUREG-0750) contain adjudications, formal orders, opinions, and other Commission decisions, including those of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards, the Administrative Law Judges, Directors’ Decisions, and the Decisions on Petitions for Rulemaking. Semiannual compilations of the monthly editions are published along with quarterly indices for them. The “Commission Staff Practice and Procedure Digest” (NUREG-0386) is a compilation spanning years of decisions interpreting NRC rules.

4.6 Opportunities For Public Participation.

Public involvement in the NRC’s activities is a cornerstone of appropriate regulation of the nuclear industry. The NRC recognizes the public’s interest in the safe regulation of nuclear activities and provides opportunities for citizens to make their opinions known. The NRC elicits public involvement early in the regulatory process so that safety concerns that may affect individuals or a community can be resolved in a timely and practical manner. This process is considered vital to assuring the public that the NRC is making sound, balanced decisions about nuclear safety. Some publications in this area include “A Guide to Open Meetings” (NUREG/BR-0128), the “Public Petition Process” (NUREG/BR-0200), “Public Involvement in the Nuclear Regulatory Process” (NUREG/BR-0215), and the “Public Document Room User’s Guide” (NUREG/BR-0004).

You may purchase final NUREG-series publications from GPO and the National Technical Information Service¹² and obtain draft publications, free to the extent of supply, from NRC’s Reproduction and Distribution Services Section. Draft reports are usually issued for comment and their availability announced in the Federal Register. These publications are also available at the PDR and some LPDRs and Federal Depository Libraries [see “Sources of Information” in this brochure]. From NRC’s Home Page, access the Reference Library icon and then Technical Reports to consult some of these reports.

5. Press Releases And Speeches

The Office of Public Affairs (OPA) routinely provides news releases and speeches to the media and to others who request them. OPA posts these documents daily to the Web site under News and Information and e-mails a weekly compilation to those who request it.

The PDR maintains a collection of news releases and speeches in microfiche and paper. Copies of the weekly compilation are maintained for 3 months at most LPDRs.

Members of the news media may request that OPA place them on a daily facsimile or e-mail list for all NRC news releases and speeches. Any member of the public may request placement on the weekly mailing list to receive free weekly compilations. From NRC’s Home Page, access the News and Information icon and then Public Affairs to obtain additional OPA information.

6. Obtaining NRC Contracts

You may obtain NRC procurement documents from several sources. NRC publicizes proposed competitive procurements of more than \$25,000 in the Commerce Business Daily (CBD) in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation. The CBD is available free online through CBDNet. You may obtain solicitations by following the instructions reflected in each CBD notice. NRC also develops a “Forecast of Contract Opportunities” each fiscal year that is available online at the NRC’s Home Page under Doing Business with NRC. This forecast includes a brief description of the procurement and NRC’s projected date for initiation of the action.

Firms interested in doing business with NRC may be added to the NRC solicitation mailing list. This list comprises eligible firms interested in receiving copies of NRC solicitations for agency needs in their areas of expertise. Firms on the list are used on a rotating basis to identify potential sources for NRC work. To be eligible to receive solicitations for future procurements, complete a Standard Form 129 entitled “Solicitation Mailing List Application” and submit it to the NRC. To obtain a copy of this form, access NRC’s Home Page under Doing Business with NRC or contact the Division of Contracts and Property Management staff.¹³

Finally, copies of solicitations and awarded contracts are posted in the NRC’s PDR. By the year 2000, NRC expects to make these documents available electronically through an Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [see “Systems of Information” in this brochure].

Procurement Opportunities for Small Businesses. The Office of Small Business and Civil Rights serves as an advocate for Section 8(a), small, small disadvantaged, and women-owned businesses to facilitate full and fair opportunities to compete for NRC contracts. NRC establishes annual goals for awarding contracts to these businesses as a means of integrating them into the base of contractors from which NRC purchases goods and services.

An information line, including automated facsimile service, is available to businesses for obtaining information about NRC’s procurement preference programs. The toll-free number¹⁴ provides 24-hour access to this information.

7. Obtaining NRC Forms

Copies of forms related to NRC regulatory requirements are available free on request by calling the Graphics and Electronic Composition Section.¹⁵ Requesters must identify the specific form by number. Allow 2 weeks for delivery.

Systems of Information

Agencywide Documents Access And Management System.

Effective management of information is critical to NRC's performing its mission. Much of this information is in the form of documents. The Commission's policies, decisions, and bases for regulatory action depend on these documents. Today, the NRC operates in a predominantly paper-based environment with an aging, microfiche-based, legacy document-indexing system (the Nuclear Documents System, known as NUDOCS) that has limited functionality to support NRC's needs. To take advantage of current technology and better accommodate the information needs of the licensees, the public, and the staff, the NRC conceived and began developing in FY 1997 a modern, fully functional document management capability called ADAMS (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System). Limited use of ADAMS may be available to the public in FY 1999.

Internet World Wide Web Site.

The NRC staff has implemented an Internet World Wide Web (WWW) server, which can be accessed by the public with Web browsers, such as Netscape or Microsoft Internet Explorer at [<http://www.nrc.gov>](http://www.nrc.gov) The NRC Home Page provides a gateway to a variety of agency information and is available via the Internet. The availability of the NRC Home Page is cited by reference in the home page for the White House, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (developer of the WWW), and other domestic and international sources.

The Internet is a global structure of networks connecting computers worldwide. The NRC uses the Internet for message communications and to provide the public with access to NRC information. The NRC staff can send and receive Internet mail from their desktop workstations. The use of Internet mail simplifies communications with other Federal and State agencies, licensees, power plants, national laboratories and universities, and the public.

The NRC Government Information Locator Service

The database for this system, known as GILS, contains the three mandated publicly available types of records: (1) locators for Information Dissemination Products (books, maps, publications); (2) locators for Automated Information Systems; and (3) a single aggregate locator for Privacy Act Systems of Records. From NRC's Home Page, access the Reference Library icon and then GILS to consult NRC's information.

Sources of Information

Within the NRC

Commission Meetings

In accordance with the Government in the Sunshine Act, the public is welcome to observe all